

SN. 10/601,685

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. KASA:026

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. *(Currently Amended)* A band saw for making straight cuts, comprising:

a continuous saw body having an inner side and an outer side, said saw body being adapted to be suspended between a pair of spaced pulleys and subject to tensioning therebetween for operation of the band saw, with said inner side facing the pulleys; and multiple saw teeth provided entirely on one edge portion of said saw body, wherein said saw body is subject to tensioning at a tooth base side tension zone located in a major portion of said saw body,

wherein said one edge portion of said saw body is angled relative to ~~[[a]] the major portion of said saw body near a tooth base line of said saw body~~ at a location between the tooth base side tension zone and the tooth base line so that the entire saw teeth are angled toward said inner side when the saw body ~~is untensioned~~ suspended between the pair of spaced pulleys is not subject to tensioning therebetween, and

wherein the tooth base line is located at an innermost part of gullets of the teeth,

wherein the tooth base side tension zone is located adjacent to the tooth base line, and

wherein the band saw substantially straightens from the one edge portion to an opposite edge portion thereof when the band saw is operationally suspended and tensioned between said spaced pulleys.

2. *(Original)* A band saw according to claim 1, wherein a projection is formed on a tip of each saw tooth, and a width of each projection is 1.5-3.0 times as large as a thickness of said band saw.

3. *(Original)* A band saw according to claim 1, wherein a tip of each saw tooth protrudes by 0.02 mm in a direction of a thickness of said band saw from a surface of said saw body.

4. *(Withdrawn - Currently Amended)* A band saw processing apparatus for obtaining a band saw for making straight cuts, including a continuous saw body having an inner side and an outer side, said saw body being adapted to be suspended between a pair of spaced pulleys and subject to tensioning therebetween for operation of the band saw, with said inner side facing the pulleys; and multiple saw teeth provided entirely on one edge portion of said saw body, wherein said saw body is subject to tensioning at a tooth base side tension zone located in a major portion of said saw body, wherein said one edge portion of said saw body is angled relative to

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[[a]] ~~the major portion of said saw body near a tooth base line of said saw body~~ at a location between the tooth based side tension zone and the tooth base line so that the entire saw teeth are angled toward said inner side when the saw body is ~~is untensioned~~ suspended between the pair of spaced pulleys is not subject to tensioning therebetween, wherein the tooth base line is located at an innermost part of gullets of the teeth, wherein the tooth base side tension zone is located adjacent to the tooth base line, and wherein the band saw substantially straightens from the one edge portion to an opposite edge portion thereof when the band saw is operationally suspended and tensioned between said spaced pulleys, said apparatus comprising:

a first and a second roller that grasp said band saw from said inner and outer sides, said first roller exerting pressure on said band saw from one of said inner and outer sides, and said second roller exerting pressure on the band saw from the other of said inner and outer sides,

wherein edges of said first and second rollers are positioned to be offset from each other in an axial direction thereof, and an area around said tooth base line area of said saw body of said band saw is grasped between said edges of said first and second rollers so that said one edge portion of said saw body of said band saw is angled toward said inner side.

5. *(Withdrawn)* A band saw processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein outer circumferential surfaces of said first and second rollers have opposite inclined configurations in the axial direction thereof, and wherein said saw tooth base line area of said base saw body is grasped by and rolled between large-diameter edges of said first roller and said second rollers to angle said one edge portion of said band saw body toward the inner side of said saw body.

6. *(Withdrawn)* A band saw processing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising a support roller supported coaxially with the second roller, and positioned to face the first roller via said band saw for supporting the band saw.

7. *(Withdrawn - Currently Amended)* A method of manufacturing a band saw for making straight cuts, including a continuous saw body having an inner side and an outer side, said saw body being adapted to be suspended between a pair of spaced pulleys and subject to tensioning therebetween for operation of the band saw, with said inner side facing the pulleys; and multiple saw teeth provided entirely on one edge portion of said saw body, wherein said saw body is subject to tensioning at a tension zone located in a major portion of said saw body, wherein said one edge portion of said saw body is angled relative to [[a]] ~~the major portion of said saw body near a tooth base line of said saw body~~ at a location between the tension zone and the tooth

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base line so that the entire saw teeth are angled toward said inner side when the saw body is ~~untensioned~~ suspended between the pair of spaced pulleys is not subject to tensioning therebetween, wherein the tooth base line is located at an innermost part of gullets of the teeth, wherein the tension zone is located adjacent to the tooth base line, and wherein the band saw substantially straightens from the one edge portion to an opposite edge portion thereof when the band saw is operationally suspended and tensioned between said spaced pulleys, said method comprising the steps of:

forming multiple saw teeth on a band saw plate having a long flat plate configuration;
welding two opposing ends of said band saw plate together to form an endless band saw; and

bending said ~~saw teeth base line area~~ one edge portion of said saw body toward said inner side of said saw body.

8. *(Withdrawn - Currently Amended)* A band saw teeth setting method for a band saw for making straight cuts, having a continuous saw body having an inner side and an outer side, said saw body being adapted to be suspended between a pair of spaced pulleys and subject to tensioning therebetween for operation of the band saw, with said inner side facing the pulleys; and multiple saw teeth provided entirely on one edge portion of said saw body, wherein said saw body is subject to tensioning at a tension zone located in a major portion of said saw body, wherein said one edge portion of said saw body is angled relative to ~~[[a]] the~~ major portion of said saw body near a tooth base line of said saw body at a location between the tension zone and the tooth base line so that the entire saw teeth are angled toward said inner side when the saw body is ~~untensioned~~ suspended between the pair of spaced pulleys is not subject to tensioning therebetween, wherein the tooth base line is located at an innermost part of gullets of the teeth, wherein the tension zone is located adjacent to the tooth base line, and wherein the band saw substantially straightens from the one edge portion to an opposite edge portion thereof when the band saw is operationally suspended and tensioned between said spaced pulleys, said method comprising the steps of:

bending said one edge portion of said saw body toward said inner side of the saw body;
and
setting teeth for said band saw.

9. *(Withdrawn)* A method according to claim 8, wherein said one edge portion of said saw body is bent toward said inner side when setting the saw teeth to said band saw.

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10. *(Previously Presented)* A band saw according to claim 1, wherein said one edge portion of said saw body is angled to strengthen and enhance durability of the saw teeth.

11. *(Withdrawn)* A band saw processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said one edge portion of said saw body is angled to strengthen and enhance durability of the saw teeth.

12. *(Withdrawn)* A method according to according to claim 7, wherein said one edge portion of said saw body is angled to strengthen and enhance durability of the saw teeth.

13. *(Withdrawn)* A method according to according to claim 8, wherein said one edge portion of said saw body is angled to strengthen and enhance durability of the saw teeth.